

In the matter concerning the upgrade of amateurs holding Novice and Advanced licenses for at least 20 years to the next higher class:

If it is the desire of the FCC to return to the three class license structure that was in place before 1951 (at least in principle), I would suggest that it would be more proper to upgrade all present holders of the Novice class license to Technician with code privilege and to upgrade all present holders of the Advanced class license to Extra class. This would eliminate 40 percent of the license classes now administered by the FCC and return to the three class structure prior to 1951. Also, it would eliminate the need to continue to show these classes of licenses which are no longer issued by the Commission.

By upgrading the Novice class licenses to Technician, this would allow such license holders to operate on the 2 meter "phone" bands as requested by the original petitioner and thus render this particular point "moot".

Although the upgrade of present Advanced class licensees to Extra class would help with the situation of those licensees who had their privileges reduced effective 22 November 1967 (actual date of these loss of privileges was 22 November 1968) by returning full privileges to those amateurs, it does not discuss this entire problem. However, the return of privileges is not a proper topic for discussion within the scope of the proposed rule-making outlined in RM-10620. Thus, it will be necessary to submit a separate proposal for this subject.

To eliminate the need for the immediate issuance of new licenses, it would be possible for the Commission to issue an "edict" that all those persons now holding the Novice class license were to have all privileges of the Technician class with code endorsement, and that all persons now holding the Advanced class license were to have all privileges of the Extra class licenses. When it became time for the holder of these two classes of licenses to renew, at that time the new license would be issued showing the change in license class. This would eliminate any burden on the Commission for the immediate issuance of new "paperwork" being that the actual change in license class would be done at the next renewal.

Having held an amateur radio operator's license for well over 43 years, I am in favor of this proposal, not to "gain additional" privileges, but as a first step in returning those privileges that were lost in 1967. In addition, I would definitely suggest the expansion to include all Novice and Advanced class licensees.

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